

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The Examiner is advised that the Japanese Patent Office issued a search report in a corresponding case on March 26, 2002. An Information Disclosure Statement will be filed shortly.

This is responsive to the Office Action dated December 7, 2001. Claims 1-8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Chigodo et al. The Examiner alleged that the first and second strip lines SL1 and SL2 in the reference form inductors and/or LC resonant circuit filters, which inherently reduce noise in the disclosed circuit.

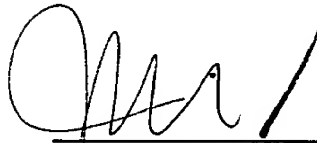
Without agreeing or disagreeing with the Examiner on his interpretation of Chigodo et al., the Applicants have amended claims 1 and 5 to clarify the claimed subject matter without, it is believed, substantially changing the scope of the claims. Each claim now recites that the inductor (in claim 1) and the LC filter (in claim 5) are effective "to eliminate an electrostatic surge occurring on the signal line." The problem of electrostatic surges is described at page 1, line 21-page 2, line 18. The claimed solutions are described in the present application at page 6, lines 27-28, and page 14, lines 25-28. Nothing in the cited references is seen to disclose any circuit which is effective for eliminating an electrostatic surge as claimed. At least for this reason, claims 1 and 5 and their dependent claims 2-4 and 6-8 are submitted to be allowable over the prior art.

In addition, new claims 10-12 and 16-18 specify that the inductor or LC filter eliminates an electrostatic surge entering from the antenna. See page 7, lines 10-12 and page 15, lines 1-6. New claim 19 depends from claim 5 and recites that the LC filter eliminates an electrostatic surge having a frequency lower than a signal on the signal line. See page 14, lines 25-28. Further, new claims 9, 13, 14, 15, 20 and 21 recite that the inductor or LC filter is connected directly to the ground terminal. This feature is disclosed by Figs. 1 and 4 and the corresponding text. None of the features of the new dependent claims is seen in the prior art. Therefore, these claims are submitted to be allowable as well.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-21 is requested.


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 8, 2002:

Respectfully submitted,



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Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

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